

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
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INFO NSC
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0357

NSC FOR PASTOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG VE
SUBJECT: BILATERAL ENERGY TALKS: MINISTER HERNANDEZ

REFS: A) STATE 3114 B) CARACAS 015

1. MINISTER OF ENERGY HERNADEZ INFORMED ME THAT,
SINCE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER CANNOT SEE HIM IN JANUARY,
HE WILL AVAIL HIMSELF OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFER
TO FLY DIRECTLY TO PARIS ON THE CONCORDE FOR HIS TALKS
THERE. HE WILL NOT PASS THROUGH WASHINGTON JAN 22123.

2. THE MINISTER, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED HIS CONTINUED
HIGH INTEREST AND DESIRE TO INITATE A DIALOGUE WITH
SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT
THIS MEETING IS STILL APENDING MATTER TO BE RESOLVED
SOON. THE MINISTER SUGGESTED THE PERIOD 20 FEBRUARY
TO 5 MARCH AS THE MOST CONVIENT TIME FOR HIM. (HE
WILL BE IN PARIS AND GENEVA UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY, AND
THE BRAZILIAN MINISTER OF ENERGY IS VISITING CARACAS
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FROM 12 TO 15 FEBRUARY. AFTER 5 MAR H HE MUST
PREPARE THE MINISTERY'S ANNUAL REPORT AND GO TO EUROPE
FOR THE OPEC MINISTERIAL ON HEAVY CRUDE.

3. IN HIS MEETING WITH SENATOR BENTSEN JANUARY 12
(CARACAS 337) THE MINISTER BROUGHT UP THEPROPOSED
DIALOGUE WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND

EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE THAT
THE GOV PLACES IN IT.

4. COMMENT. IN VIEW OF THE UNFORTUNATE NECESSITY
TO FOREGO THE MEETING IN JANUARY, I URGE THAT A
MEETING DATE BE FIRMED UP IN THE PERIOD SUGGESTED.
I BELIEVE IT EVIDENT THAT HERNANDEZ (AND PRESIDENT
PEREZ) ARE SENSITIVE TO THE NUANCES IN THIS CASE,
ATTACH A LOT OF SYMOBLIC AS WELL AS INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE
TO IT AND CONSIDER IT A PENDING MATTER. THERE IS
NO DOUBT BUT THAT HERNANDEZ WAS DISAPPOINTED AND
CONTINUED POSTPONEMENT WILL SURELY BE TAKEN AS A
"BRUSH OFF".

5. I ALSO WANT TO STRESS WHAT I HAVE REPREATED BEFORE
VIZ, THAT THE GOV'S BASIC INTEREST IN THIS MEETING
IS TO INITIATE APROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND
DIALOGUE. THERE ARE OF COURSE, SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE
ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, BUT THEY ARE NOT THEMSELVES
THE SOLE REASONS FOR WANTING THE MEETING. NOR DOES
HERNANDEZ EXPECT THAT HE WILL HAVE A "DEFINITIVE"
MEETING OR THAT THERE IS ANYTHING TO "NEGOTIATE".
IT IS THE DIALOGUE--WHICH HE NOW CARRIES ON WITH
THE ENERGY MINISTERS OF MOST OF THE OTHER DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES--THAT IS WHAT THE GOV WANTED, EXPECTED
AND UNDERSTOOD (AS DID WE) FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S
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INITIATIVE IN SUGGESTING IT.
VAKY

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NNN

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